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Editorial: Losses, tributes and carrying on

By Carol A Adams, Editor

In the last issue of the Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal (SAMPJ) for 2017, we pay tribute to two editorial board members who died in June. Malcolm McIntosh (1953-2017) and David Campbell (1963-2017) strove to achieve what this journal aspires to contribute to, more sustainable and ethical practices and a better society. They did this through their writings, their work outside universities, their networks and their friendships.

Invited and moving tributes from Sandra Waddock and Richard Slack, both acclaimed researchers and also co-authors and close friends of Malcolm and David respectively are included in this issue. Their contributions are different in style, but both eloquently cover, as different reviewers put it, “both the man and his work” and are “written with love”.

They highlight that their contributions to a better society come from an intertwined and inseparable combination of their work and the way they engaged in networks and with people. For those working in universities driven by measurement and reward for published outputs (generally dubiously measured for the sake of convenience and ‘efficiency’), these tributes are a reminder that conversations, thinking and connections matter when it comes to achieving outcomes that make a difference.

Whether or not you were fortunate to have known and spent time with Malcolm and David, I encourage you to read these tributes. Emerald agreed to make them available free in acknowledgement of their contribution and so that anyone aspiring to contribute to change could be inspired by them.

We also learned in June that, thanks to our Editorial Board members, including Malcolm and David, and all our authors and referees that SAMPJ was accepted onto the SSCI (Social Science Citation Index) for its contribution to the field of social and environmental sustainability. I hope this will play at least some part in encouraging another generation to contribute to research, practice and policy for a better world in the way that Malcolm and David did.